AMENDMENT 2 PROMOTES DISCRIMINATION
IT'S NOT ABOUT SPECIAL RIGHTS

"Stripped of all its fancy words, proposed Amendment 2 simply says that gays and lesbians can be discriminated against, and they can't complain about it. That's not right."

WHAT'S DISCRIMINATORY ABOUT AMENDMENT 2? Gays and lesbians, Amendment 2 says, can't make any "claim of discrimination." This clause, stuck away at the end of the amendment, is the most important part of the amendment and the least publicized. This language would make gays and lesbians the *only* group in America to be barred from asking for or ever receiving protection from basic discrimination. That means gays and lesbians could be fired from their jobs, evicted from their homes, or not served in restaurants -- simply for being gay.

WHAT ABOUT THE "MINORITY STATUS, QUOTA PREFERENCES, AND PROTECTED STATUS" LANGUAGE IN THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT? WHAT ABOUT THE "SPECIAL RIGHTS" THAT COLORADO FOR FAMILY VALUES TALKS ABOUT? Colorado does not have, and has never had, any laws, policies or ordinances that give gays or lesbians any sort of minority status or quota preferences. However, three Colorado cities (Denver, Boulder and Aspen) have passed non-discrimination ordinances, to prohibit discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations. These ordinances apply to a wide variety of people, not just gays and lesbians. Churches and small rental unit owners are exempt from these ordinances.

Colorado for Family Values, the group that is pushing Amendment 2, calls these three city ordinances "gay rights" ordinances. CFV would like you to believe that the basic protection granted by these three city non-discrimination ordinances constitutes "protected status" or "special rights" for gays and lesbians. However, these three city civil rights ordinances also provide basic discrimination protection on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, marital status, disability and age. In Boulder, this discrimination protection also extends to pregnancy, parenthood, and custody of a child. The vast majority of people in these three cities qualify for and benefit from the protections of these city ordinances.

Colorado for Family Values also wants you to believe that gays and lesbians must meet certain requirements before they can become eligible for protection from discrimination. Clearly this is not true. Just as unmarried people and people practicing different religions are protected from basic discrimination without meeting income or influence criteria, so other citizens can also be protected from arbitrary discrimination in housing or from being fired from their jobs.

Proposed Amendment 2 would make it impossible for gays and lesbians in Colorado to ever seek redress against even the most blatant job or housing discrimination -- and that's not how we should treat people in America.

IF AMENDMENT 2 DISCRIMINATES, HOW CAN IT BE CONSTITUTIONAL? Under Colorado law, constitutionality is determined only after the amendment is voted into law. If approved by the voters, the only immediate effect of Amendment 2 will be a lengthy and expensive court battle at the state and federal levels, at taxpayer's expense. Ultimately, the amendment is likely to be held unconstitutional.

DON'T ENCOURAGE DISCRIMINATION -- VOTE NO ON 2!

For more complete information on Amendment 2, contact Citizens Project, Box 2085, Colorado Springs, CO, 80901, or phone 685-1919. We will send you a packet of Amendment 2 materials, both pro and con (including the Colorado legislative analysis) for your further information.